caution the various contacts of these three patients at different hospitals and their family settings were administered prophylactic treatment and were isolated from general population. Public health advisories were issued to Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh regarding undiagnosed fever and respiratory ailment.

Diseases due to shortage of clean water

†4822. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cause of 80 per cent diseases in the country is shortage of clean water;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide clean water to the public;

(c) whether Government would also issue some guidelines to States in this regard;

(d) if so, by when;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to educate the people in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Disease burden to water-borne diseases is enormous. The Government of India has taken up various initiatives for providing potable water to people living in rural and urban areas of the country and supports State Governments/State Water Supply Agencies/ Rural and Urban Local Bodies by way of providing technical guidelines for planning, designing, execution and operation and maintenance of water supply and sanitation projects.

The National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme also takes steps to supply clean water and also for proper disposal of human excreta. National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Calcutta renders support to the State Government by sending expert to conduct investigations of diarrhoeal diseases outbreaks, occurring in different parts of the country from time to time and have given guidelines for prevention of further outbreaks.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests under the National River Conservation Programme has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments for implementation of water pollution abatement and control schemes in order to maintain desirable water quality in water bodies throughout the country.

The precautionary measures being taken by the Government include provision of safe drinking water and taking adequate steps to improve hygienic sanitation facilities to the vulnerable sections of the society both in rural and urban areas. Steps have also been taken to create awareness among the masses about good sanitary habits and health seeking behaviour, which will contribute to reduction of incidents of water borne diseases.

Pill for Abortion

4823. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a pill is now being sold in the Indian market for abortion;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some medical professionals are concerned about its misuse; and

(c) if so, the precautions Government propose to take for ensuring its proper use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Mifepristone 200mg tablets are now being sold on prescription in Indian market for abortion.

(b) and (c) Mifepristone is allowed to be marketed only under supervision of Gynecologists and in hospitals where back-up facilities are available for blood, transfusion and MTP.